

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MALLING

ANNUAL REPORT

on the
Health of the Malling District
for the year 1963



By

The Medical Officer of Health
Dr. F. H. M. DUMMER
and
Chief Public Health Inspector
H. C. COLDRICK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F. H. M. Dummer, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. C. Coldrick, M.A.P.H.I.,

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

E. T. Allsop, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

R. Marsdin, M.A.P.H.I., (Resigned 3.5.63.)

G. H. J. Roscow, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., (Commenced 10.6.63.)

R. M. Cripps, M.A.P.H.I., (Public Cleansing)

G. P. Mutimer, (Student, commenced 21.10.63.)

Clerks:

R. W. Wellard

A. C. Wickwar

Miss R. Symons

Miss D. Cosstick

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Mr. G. S. J. Cable - Chairman:

Mr. W. F. Hodge
Mr. F. H. Simmonds
Mr. F. A. Davies
Mr. T. C. Bennett
Mr. H. J. Diprose
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Mr. L. A. Wheeler
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Mr. A. J. Busbridge
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Mrs. K. G. Pasteur
Mr. H. C. Dunckley
Lt. Col. C. H. Ricketts
Mr. F. W. Cornwall



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Medical Officer of Health's Office,
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MAIDSTONE,
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Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
WEST MALLING,
Kent.
(West Malling 3334)

19th June, 1964

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my seventh Annual Report on the health of the Rural District of Malling.

One of the most satisfactory features of this report is the consistently high live birth rate of your District, associated as it is with a nil return for maternal mortality. This is an indication of the standard of ante-natal and obstetric care which is being exercised throughout the district, and augurs well for the future.

On the other hand we have an abnormally high death rate this year, which has been accounted for under the two main headings of heart disease and cancer. It is, of course, to be expected that with people living longer the percentage increase in both of these main causes will in fact continue to be a feature of this return.

In the pages which follow you will read of the very large scope of the services carried out by the local authority and the changes which are occurring in those services. We certainly take the view that no matter how the services are amended, changes are inevitably forced upon us, particularly in this growing district, and our aim is always to give the ratepayers a good deal for their money.

The amendments to the scheme for refuse collection are examples of this, and soon we will be engaging upon further efforts to improve the hygiene standards involved in this very personal aspect of public health.

Once again the total number of visits paid by the Inspectors has exceeded 10,000 in the year, and is even higher than the figure for 1962. One of the principal duties carried out by the Health Department is the regular inspection and supervision of all premises preparing, selling or serving food, and from the summary, near the end of this report, of inspections of food premises, there is an indication to you of the amount of time which is spent on this subject alone.

We are very aware that food premises on or near the A.20 are liable to be used very fully indeed by passing travellers, and thereby require a high standard of vigilance in order to ensure that no dissemination of disease can occur from such places. The volume of traffic and customers in such places in the summer months is colossal, even in coach traffic alone, and could provide a very ready medium for disease.

With the additional Public Health Inspector who has been appointed this year, and the taking on of a Pupil Inspector, we are hopeful that some of the burden which has fallen on the staff of late will be somewhat shed.

Throughout the year I have had the full support of an understanding and knowledgeable Public Health Committee and I am grateful to the Chairman and all the Members for their courtesy.

As always I have received from Mr. Coldrick, your Chief Public Health Inspector, and all the members of the Public Health Department, the fullest co-operation, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to them.

The work of the Public Health Department is very largely a team effort and we do depend on the co-operation of all officers of the Council, particularly the other Chief Officers, and this we have received in generous fashion.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Comparative table showing birth rate, death rate,
and infant mortality rate.

MALLING R.D.C.	Per 1,000 estimated mid-year Home Population				Per 1,000 total live and still	Per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth Rate		Death Rate		Still Birth Rate	Death rate of infants under 1 year of age
	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate		
1959	16.79	17.62	11.01	11.23	15.74	27.20
1960	18.00	18.92	10.61	10.92	32.30	23.22
1961	18.67	19.60	10.68	10.89	11.85	21.33
1962	20.83	20.83	9.98	10.97	17.79	19.25
1963	21.13	20.28	12.05	13.49	14.95	18.43
England & Wales 1963	18.2		12.2		17.3	20.9

Once again a feature of the table above is the consistently high birth rate of your District, which is again above the national figure. It reveals the preponderance of the young population group in your area.

There has been a substantial rise in the death rate since 1962, and this is accounted for statistically by a significant increase in cancer deaths from 62 last year to 99 this year; the principal sites affected being the lungs and bronchi. Another feature which shows an increase is the deaths due to heart disease and the conditions associated with this cause.

The infant mortality rate at 18.3 is lower than that of the national average of 20.9.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

PARISH	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Measles	Paralytic		Polio-myelitis		Pneumonia	Encephalitis	Pulmonary	Tuber-culosis		Dysentery	Paratyphoid fever	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Puerperal pyrexia	Ophthalmia neonatorum	TOTALS
				Non-paralytic															
Addington	-	-	198	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	275
Aylesford	22	2	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Birling	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Borough Green	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Burham	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
Ditton	-	3	217	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240
Ightham	-	1	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
Leybourne	3	1	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
E. Malling	18	3	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
W. Malling	5	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Mereworth	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Offham	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
E. Peckham	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
W. Peckham	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Platt	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plaxtol	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ryarsh	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shipbourne	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snodland	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stansted	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trottis-cliffe	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Wateringbury	1	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Wouldham	-	1	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Wrotham	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
TOTALS	35	35	712	-	-	6	-	15	1	128	-	3	1	1	-	1	-	1	937

The two main features of the above table are the biennial incidence of measles in 1962, and the number of cases of dysentery which arose in the widespread epidemic of the Spring and Summer.

Of the total of 128 cases of dysentery notified 90 were confirmed and the remaining 34 proved to be gastric upsets not resulting from any specific organism.

Once again there were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria.

The following table relates to the incidence of Notifiable
Diseases according to disease, sex and age groups

DISEASE	AGE GROUPS IN YEARS																			
	0 - 1		1 - 2		3 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65 & over		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet fever	-	-	1	-	6	5	11	7	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	18	17
Whooping cough	1	2	-	7	2	3	7	9	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	23
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	8	19	77	71	86	96	142	172	15	21	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	329	383
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	6	2	3	6	6	31	20	9	9	4	7	7	13	-	3	-	1	60	68
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	4	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or typhoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	27	80	81	100	111	191	208	26	33	5	10	10	19	2	5	-	2	425	496

TUBERCULOSIS

The table set out below records in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year, together with the number of deaths which occurred.

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	4	2	-	-	3	-	-	-
45 - 64	5	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
65 & over	1	1	-	-	5	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
 TOTALS	11	4	1	-	12	-	-	-
	15		1		12		-	-

I am indebted to Mr. D.L. Pugh, the Chest Physician, for the following details of the numbers of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures relate to the area of the Chest Clinic which coincides with the area of the four authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D., Hollingbourn R.D., and Malling R.D.

(a)	Number of contacts seen during 1963 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis	.. .. ..	287
(b)	Number of contacts examined during 1963 of cases notified prior to 1963	.. .. ..	698
(c)	Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis	.. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..	Nil
(d)	Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis	.. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..	3
(e)	Arising out of school Heaf Positive contact		1

The number of new cases of tuberculosis fell from 21 last year to 16 this year. There was an unusually large number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis in 1963, being 12 as compared with 6 in 1962.

You will see also from the above figures that the amount of work done in following up potential contact infection is still very great.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1963

The following table shows the number of injections given in the various priority groups during the year ended 31st December, 1963.

Year	2 Injections (SALK)	3rd Dose (SALK & ORAL)	4th Dose (SALK & ORAL)	3 Orals (Completed Course)
1963	3	1	479	128
1962	1	15		562
1961		36		69
1957 - 1960		23		71
1943 - 1956		12		21
1933 - 1942	1	16		37
Others		24		
TOTALS	5	127	479	888

During the year 1,015 people have completed a course of protection against poliomyelitis, and this brings the total since the inception of the scheme to 15,625, representing approximately 35 per cent of your District, ignoring the age barrier of 40 years.

In addition 479 school children have received the fourth (booster) dose.

The figures although reasonable, are still not up to the standard that one would expect with the ease of administration with this particular vaccine, and there is no reason why, on logical and sensible grounds, there should not be 100 per cent protection, remembering, of course, that the whole of the population cannot be protected.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION, 1963

The following table shows the whooping cough immunisation figures for 1963, based on the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Year of Birth	Whooping cough immunisation (Singly or in combination)
	Primary
1963	330
1962	360
1961	22
1960	5
1959	3
1954 - 1958	3
1949 - 1953	-
TOTAL	723

The number of immunisations carried out in 1963, at 723, was higher than that of 1962 at 674. Those are encouraging figures and it should be borne in mind that whooping cough can still be a serious disease in the very young, and parents are again strongly advised to ensure that the protection of immunisation is given.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION, 1963

PRIMARY VACCINATION 1 YEAR	RE-VACCINATION SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER 8 YEARS
232	4

The records of vaccinations supplied now by the County Medical Officer are only those which apply to primary vaccinations carried out under the County Council's own arrangements, and to re-vaccination between the ages of 5 and 8 years.

I am therefore not in a position to know the total numbers in either category. The statistics although they are submitted to you are not, in my opinion, of much value, but are presented to you merely because they are a return which is sent to me by the County Medical Officer.

I would, however, stress that it is of value to have infants vaccinated against smallpox, and particularly for people who are going abroad to maintain their state of protection by re-vaccination at intervals of three years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1963

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation figures for 1963, based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation (Singly or in combination)	
	Primary	Reinforcing
1963	338	-
1962	371	7
1961	23	197
1960	6	103
1959	5	39
1954 - 1958	6	299
1949 - 1953	?	5
TOTALS	749	650

There has been a substantial increase in the number of immunisations both in the table for primary injections and for boosting doses. The total for 1963 is 1,399 as compared with 1,119 for 1962. Under both headings there has been an increase and this is particularly welcome as far as the reinforcing doses are concerned.

From time to time small outbreaks of diphtheria arise in the country and the only way of ensuring that the disease does not become epidemic is by having the assurance of an existing barrier to infection through immunisation which is maintained at a high level from year to year.

CANCER

Below is an analysis of the deaths from malignant disease according to age groups.

Age Groups	Male	Female
0 .. 1 year	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-
5 - 14 "	-	-
15 - 24 "	2	-
25 - 34 "	-	1
35 - 44 "	-	2
45 - 54 "	11	7
55 - 64 "	13	12
65 - 74 "	19	11
75 years & over	12	9
TOTALS	57	42

Site	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of stomach	8	2	10
Cancer of lung, bronchus	23	3	26
Cancer of breast	-	10	10
Cancer of uterus	-	5	5
Other sites	26	22	48
TOTALS	57	42	99

This year there has been a substantial rise in the number of deaths due to cancer. Last year the figure was 62, which was less than the 1961 figure of 78. This year the total number of deaths is 99, and the main weight of this attack has been on the lungs and bronchi. The figure for cancer of the breast has also increased. As has that for cancer of the stomach. Although this trend is in keeping with the national trend, it is a very discouraging one.

The distribution of deaths is still, however, mainly-but not wholly - concentrated on the older age groups.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 - 6 months	7 - 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Asphyxia	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Atelectasis	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Congenital malformation	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hyaline membrane disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Prematurity	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Respiratory distress syndrome	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Undefined diseases notified by Registrar General	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS	10	-	-	-	10	1	4	-	17

The infant mortality rate at 18.43 is below the average for England and Wales at 20.9.

In the analysis of deaths under one year you will see that the majority arose in the first week of life, and of those, four were premature infants whose chances of survival were speculative. Congenital malformations this year only amounted to one death, and we had a rather unusual feature of a death under one year caused by measles.

The total number involved is relatively small, although extremely important, from a statistical point of view, and the rate for infant mortality is bound to vary very widely when one deals with such small numbers. I do not therefore put a great deal of significance on this figure, although it is satisfactory as compared with the only standard we can use, i.e. the national average for England and Wales.

Birth-rates, Death-rates and Analysis of Mortality
in the year, 1963

Area	Rate per 1,000 population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population				Rate per 1,000	
		Live Births	All causes	Tuberculosis	Cancer of lung	Live Births	Related Births
England and Wales	18.2	12.2	.05	.51	1.65	20.9	17.3
Hollingbourn R.D.	21.06	11.35	-	.50	1.85	35.29	22.98
Maidstone R.D.	21.14	10.77	.09	.68	1.56	18.77	16.16
Malling R.D.	20.28	13.49	.27	.59	1.67	18.43	14.95
Maidstone Borough	16.33	11.59	.06	.48	1.27	20.36	23.85
County of Kent	17.46	12.50	.09	.55	1.65	18.80	17.51

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1963

<u>Cause</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	12	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	-	1
4. Diphtheria	..	..	..	-	-
5. Whooping cough	..	..	..	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	-	-
8. Measles	..	..	..	-	4
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	8	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	23	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	-	10
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	26	22
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	1	1
16. Diabetes	..	..	..	3	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	18	34
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	44	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	2	7
20. Other heart disease	..	..	..	30	39
21. Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	12	15
22. Influenza	..	..	..	6	7
23. Pneumonia	..	..	..	18	23
24. Bronchitis	..	..	..	13	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	4	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	-	4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	5	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	..	..	..	1	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	13	37
33. Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	11	1
34. All other accidents	..	..	..	4	3
35. Suicide	..	..	..	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	-	-
				<hr/> 258	<hr/> 268
				<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
WEST MALLING.

19th June, 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Malling.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my sixteenth Annual Report on the environmental circumstances existing in the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

The work of the department continued smoothly during the past year, all aspects of sanitation and environmental hygiene receiving attention.

Some progress was made on the second five year programme of Slum Clearance. Much time was spent on the control and handling of food stuffs and meat inspection, although small this year, was maintained at 100% of all animals killed. However, during the earlier part of the year when an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery coincided with a shortage of one Inspector, the remaining staff were stretched to the limit. Routine work was seriously disrupted and for a time it was possible to deal with matters of urgency only, despite working overtime. The services of the Rodent Operator were called upon to help in the collection of specimens and he proved to be of great assistance. In a Department of this size, team work and a willingness to assist each other is essential for smooth and efficient working and this was manifest on this occasion. With the decline in the number of cases of Dysentery and the appointment of Mr. G.J.H. Roscow to fill the vacancy referred to, things were restored to normal.

The other staff changes during the year were the commencement of Mr. A.C. Wickwar as Public Cleansing Clerk on the 1st January, as mentioned in my last report, and the appointment of Mr. G.P. Mutimer as Student Public Health Inspector, who commenced his duties on the 21st October.

During the year the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 came into force which for the first time places an obligation on all Local Authorities to ensure that all animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected in accordance with a standard laid down by statute. Meat passed as fit is to be marked in accordance with the regulations and Authorities may now make a charge for meat inspection at Slaughterhouses. This latter prerogative has been implemented by the Council and the maximum allowable charges are now levied in this area.

Two major items of legislation were enacted during the year, viz:- The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963 and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. As both these Acts come into operation in 1964, it is not possible at this stage to judge their effect, it does appear, however that the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act will entail considerable additional work for the department.

The Council's proposal for a Caravan Site for gypsies was refused planning approval by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on appeal and although other locations were investigated, an alternative site had not been found at the years end.

EAST

Work commenced during the year on the ~~West~~ Peckham Sewage Works and Sewerage Scheme and it is anticipated that this will be completed by the middle of 1964. The completion of this scheme should alleviate to some extent the difficulties of the cesspool emptying service brought about by the new developments taking place throughout the district. The position is, however, likely to continue to be acute until sewerage schemes at present envisaged, begin to take shape. A scheme for the replacement of the Snodland Sewage works and resewering of the village was submitted to the Minister in the latter part of the year.

HOUSING

It was not possible to continue with the Slum Clearance programme at quite the same pace as in previous years due to a shortage of alternative Council accommodation. However 14 representations were made, resulting in 13 Closing Orders with 1 representation due for consideration in 1964. A further 3 Closing Orders and 2 Demolition Orders were made as a result of representations made during 1962.

27 houses were demolished during the year, some of which were the subject of Closing Orders made in previous years. This figure includes 9 Local Authority dwellings at Four Acres, East Malling. In all, 35 persons comprising 12 families were rehoused by the Council from unfit houses.

Since the commencement of the Council's second five year programme on 1st January 1961, a total of 88 properties have been dealt with, and it is anticipated that with the speeding up of the Council's building programme, more impetus can be given to this important aspect of the work of the Department in the forthcoming year.

The continued support of the Council and the policy to continue building and to allocate a proportion of houses for dealing with Slum Clearance cases has ensured the success of the programme to date and is much appreciated.

1,241 inspections were made in connection with housing and it was necessary to serve 92 informal and 7 statutory notices requiring various repairs to property. A detailed summary of the works effected is shown in tabulated form at the end of this section of the report. The following shows the number of houses rendered fit during the year.

Houses made fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority ...	70
Houses made fit as a result of formal action by the Local Authority ...	5

During the year there were only 2 applications for Certificates of Disrepair, both resulting in undertakings being received from the landlords to carry out the necessary works.

In the six years that the Rent Act, 1957 has been in force, a total of 147 applications for Certificates have been received but it is to be regretted that as far as this District is concerned, the Act has failed to prevent the deterioration of the smaller cottage property.

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. C. Brown, who has supplied the following information :-

Discretionary Grants

Number of schemes submitted	73
Number of schemes approved	73
Total cost of such improvements or conversions	£53,307
Total cost of grants made	£21,801

Standard Grants

Number of applications	66
Number of applications approved	66
Total cost of grants made	£7,585

There was an increase of 13 applications submitted for discretionary grants compared with 1962 and the cost of such grants increased by £3,479. The number of Standard Grants increased by 28 on the previous year and the amount paid by way of grant rose by £2,970.

The owners of 58 properties in one area of Snodland were circularised in the hope that the majority would avail themselves of a Grant for improving the property. The response was very poor indeed, one firm taking up the offer in respect of their 9 properties, together with three individual owners.

The number of new dwellings completed in the Rural District during 1963 was as follows :-

By Local Authority	15
By Private Enterprise	511
Total	526

The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing premises during the year under review :-

Water closets provided	...	18
Water closets repaired	...	17
Wash basin provided/renewed/cleansed	...	8
Sinks provided/renewed	...	5
Water heaters provided	...	3
Baths provided	...	2
Cesspools provided/renewed	...	9
Urinals provided/renewed	...	4
Inspection chambers provided/renewed	...	7
Gullies repaired/renewed	...	1
Drains laid/ altered/ repaired	...	17
Choked drains cleansed	...	20
Chimney-stacks repaired/renewed	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	21
R.W. gutters and pipes repaired/renewed	...	14
External walls repaired	...	13
Internal walls and ceilings repaired	...	41
Floors and staircases repaired	...	10
Doors and windows repaired/renewed	...	27
Grates and ranges repaired/renewed	...	5
Dampness remedied	...	18
Dustbins provided	...	61
Accumulations removed	...	2
Yard paving repaired	...	2
Mains water laid on	...	6
Water pipes repaired	...	2
Number of informal notices served during 1963	...	92
Number of formal notices served during 1963	...	7
Number of complaints received during 1963	...	376

HOP PICKING

Hop picking carried on throughout September as is the usual custom. 16 pickers camps were occupied housing an estimated 2,060 persons, a decrease of 157 over the previous year. One additional machine was used during the year. This increase in the number of machines and the gradually decreasing number of hop pickers is now common practice and the traditional hop picker will soon be a thing of the past.

50 visits of inspection were made to hop pickers' camps to ensure compliance with the byelaws and once again particular attention was paid to latrine accommodation and refuse disposal. There is a growing tendency for many pickers to provide their own accommodation in the form of caravans, many of these also provide their own chemical closet.

Mobile food shops and barrows serving food to hop pickers all receive attention including one large tented cafe at one camp.

Growers have continued to co-operate, conditions in general were satisfactory, and huts have not been occupied after the 30th November as required by the byelaw.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Mid Kent Water Company supplies water to the majority of the premises in the district, but a small number, 235 in all are supplied by the mains of the Maidstone Water Works Company, the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company and the Medway Water Board. In addition, 167 premises receive piped supplies from private sources. It has still not been possible to provide a piped supply of water to properties in the Bells Farm Area of East Peckham parish and the Holly Hill area of Birling parish due to the prohibitive cost.

During the year under review, work was commenced on the scheme to extend the water mains to serve 25 properties in the Hamptons Area of West Peckham and Plaxtol. Work was in an advanced stage at the years end and will be completed early in 1964.

Details of supplies are as follows:-

a. Dwellings supplied from public water mains

Mid Kent Water Company	13,390
Maidstone Water Works Company	55
Medway Water Board	160
Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Water Co.,	30
	<u>13,625</u>

b. Dwellings receiving piped supplies from private sources

Golding Hop spring supply Plaxtol	1
Tottington spring supply Aylesford	17
Hamptons private supply West Peckham	25
Hermitage Farm supply Aylesford	5
Fairlawn private supply Shipbourne	<u>119</u>

167
13,792

At the 31st December, 1963 98.51% of the houses within the district were receiving a supply of piped water from statutory undertakings and a further 1.21% from private sources of supply, giving a total of 99.72% of the houses within the district receiving a piped water supply.

SAMPLES

As none of the supplies are liable to plumbo-solvent action and samples confirm the absence of lead contamination precautions against these contaminations have not been necessary.

Type of Water	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Statutory Supply Undertakings	12	12	-	2	2	-
Private Sources piped to dwellings	25	22	3	-	-	-
Other private sources	4	1	3	-	-	-

WATER SAMPLES

Of the 6 unsatisfactory samples, 3 were taken from unfiltered water of the Tottington spring supply. Bacteriological filters are provided at all the houses on this supply, and samples taken after filtration proved satisfactory.

One sample was taken from an underground tank fed by roof water. An alternative treated supply is available at this house and the owner/occupier has been advised to disconnect the polluted supply.

The remaining two unsatisfactory samples were taken from wells in the Bells Farm Area of East Peckham. Instructions have been given to boil the water and the owner approached with a view to providing bacteriological filters or an alternative supply.

The Water Companies carry out regular chemical and bacteriological examination of their supplies and results are consistently satisfactory. None of the supplies is subjected to fluoridation and in all cases, the natural content is under 0.1 parts per million. During 1963 The Mid Kent Water Company took 78 samples of the Trosley water and 33 of the Halling supply. The following table gives the average chemical analysis of the water during the year :-

	Trosley Pumping Station	Halling Pumping Station
	Parts per million	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.8	2.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	0	0
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. at 27°C)	0	0
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	157	165
Hardness (as CaCO ₃) Total	226	190
Carbonate	157	165
Non-Carbonate	69	25
Total solids (dried at 180°C)	329	250
p H	7.4	7.2
Free CO ₂	10	22
Chloride	22	17
Sulphate	0	0
Calcium	206 (as CaCO ₃)	174 (as CaCO ₃)
Magnesium	20 (as CaCO ₃)	21 (as CaCO ₃)
Iron	0.06	0.3
Manganese	Absent	Absent
Silica	"	"
Phosphate	"	0.1
Residual Chlorine	.01	NIL

The following table shows the number of dwelling houses in each parish; those supplied with water from public and private mains, and those known to be without a laid-on water supply. In the latter case, water is obtained from springs and wells or by the storage of rainwater in under-ground tanks.

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated population	No. of houses with piped supply		No. of houses known to be without laid on supply.
			Public Mains	Private Sources	
Addington	219	654	219	-	-
Aylesford	1,948	6,078	1,920	22	6
Birling	451	1,332	447	-	4
Borough Green	1,095	3,276	1,095	-	-
Burham	584	1,708	584	-	-
Ditton	867	2,759	867	-	-
Ightham	601	1,837	601	-	-
Leybourne	188	2,108	188	-	-
East Mallings & Larkfield	1,590	4,901	1,590	-	-
West Mallings	880	2,436	878	-	2
Mereworth	224	830	223	-	1
Offham	230	738	230	-	-
East Peckham	756	2,223	744	-	12
West Peckham	105	338	85	19	1
Platt	445	1,321	443	-	2
Plaxtol	344	1,008	332	7	5
Ryarsh	251	776	251	-	-
Shipbourne	158	504	39	119	-
Snodland	1,453	4,345	1,449	-	4
Stansted	168	539	168	-	-
Trottiscliffe	164	467	164	-	-
Wateringbury	365	1,123	365	-	-
Wouldham	264	848	264	-	-
Wrotham	480	1,471	479	-	1
TOTALS	13,830	43,620	13,625	167	38

WATER MAINS:

During the year under review, 8,642 yards of mains were laid in the District as follows :—

PARISH	YARDS	SIZE	WATER COMPANY			
Birling	79	3"	Mid Kent Water Company			
Borough Green	169	3"	"	"	"	"
" "	426	4"	"	"	"	"
Burham	248	3"	"	"	"	"
"	258	4"	"	"	"	"
Ditton	66	3"	"	"	"	"
East Mallings and Larkfield	170	3"	"	"	"	"
	398	4"	"	"	"	"
East Peckham	339	3"	"	"	"	"
Leybourne	1,688	12"	"	"	"	"
Offham	370	3"	"	"	"	"
Ryarsh	945	12"	"	"	"	"
Shipbourne	380	3"	Fairlawn Private Supply			
Snodland	110	3"	Mid Kent Water Company			
"	1,294	4"	"	"	"	"
Trottiscliffe	225	3"	"	"	"	"
West Mallings	62	3"	"	"	"	"
" "	235	4"	"	"	"	"
West Peckham	1,180	6"	"	"	"	"

The 1,180 yards of 6" main laid in the parish of West Peckham was laid to serve 25 properties in the Hamptons Area as a result of the scheme approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1962. This was the only new main laid for the benefit of existing houses not hitherto served by private mains. The other new mains were laid chiefly to serve new development and to replace existing mains.

During 1963 it was only necessary to deliver 1,200 gallons of water to houses dependent on stored rainwater in the Holly Hill Area of Birling and Snodland. This is a decrease of 3,200 gallons on the previous year and is accounted for by the wet summer. The position regarding the provision of a piped water supply to these properties is unchanged, due to the prohibitive cost involved.

METEOROLOGY

The following data concerning meteorology for 1963 (with comparative figures for the four previous years) has been supplied by the Meteorological Officer of the East Malling Research Station:-

	Temperature in Screen (°F)				Total	35 year's average	Heaviest Rainfall in any one day	No. days rain (0.01 & over)	Total hours of sunshine	Sunshine	Average Barometer (Millibars)
	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	Highest	Lowest							
January	32.7	23.7	40	7	0.68	2.46	0.26	14	52.3	1021.4	
February	35.9	25.6	45	15	0.63	1.95	0.18	14	79.1	1009.3	
March	50.0	36.3	59	19	2.98	1.57	0.52	18	113.1	1009.6	
April	54.6	40.0	67	27	2.53	1.90	0.49	15	120.8	1010.3	
May	59.8	42.3	75	32	2.36	1.93	0.48	15	196.5	1014.9	
June	66.5	50.4	76	44	2.19	1.63	0.46	13	188.3	1011.4	
July	68.9	50.5	79	38	1.41	2.25	0.68	10	218.4	1016.9	
August	67.5	51.0	75	42	3.54	2.31	1.15	19	154.1	1007.8	
September	63.9	48.9	75	40	2.28	2.18	0.51	13	116.5	1015.4	
October	58.2	43.9	69	35	1.75	2.85	0.46	14	88.7	1016.7	
November	53.5	40.4	62	28	5.0	3.18	0.92	24	55.2	999.7	
December	40.9	30.4	48	14	0.70	2.48	0.19	10	43.7	984.7	
Total/ Average for the year	54.5	40.3			26.05	26.69		179	1426.7	1009.8	
Total/Average for the year	1959				21.42	26.73		153	1900.7	1010.8	
	1960				35.95	26.73		212	1481.2	1009.8	
	1961				24.66	26.69		165	1686.0	1009.8	
	1962				21.75	26.69		157	1583.4	1014.9	

Wettest Period

The longest wet period of the year was from 30th October to 11th November.

Driest Period

The longest dry period of the year was from 21st February to 7th March, and the sunniest day of the year was on 2nd June when 14.9 hours of sunshine were recorded.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Regular routine inspections were again made to all food premises in the District to ensure compliance with the Standards laid down in the Food Hygiene Regulations. During the year a total of 1,481 visits were carried out, excluding visits to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection. Proprietors have, in the main, continued to be co-operative and the modern trend of installing deep freeze cabinets and refrigerated counters has continued. It has been found that many people coming into the retail grocery trade have little or no experience in the trade and every effort is made by visits and the issue of leaflets and instruction cards to ensure that the shopkeeper is made fully aware of the proper methods of storage and handling of foodstuffs and the importance of stock rotation. Particular emphasis is laid on perishable foods such as meat pies, sausages and cooked meats whose limited life is directly governed by the sort of treatment they receive between manufacture and consumption. Deep freeze cabinets continued to receive attention and, in addition to the checking of temperatures by the Inspectors, shopkeepers are advised to carry out regular temperature checks for themselves to ensure that the goods are kept under the best conditions. Constant routine inspection must be carried out if effective control of these premises is to be maintained.

4 cases of contamination of food were brought to the notice of the Department during the year, but in none of the instances were legal proceedings warranted. All the foods were manufactured outside this District, full enquiries were made and steps taken in an endeavour to preclude any further recurrence.

The following table sets out the number of food premises in the district regularly inspected by the District Public Health Inspectors -

Cafes and Works Canteens	...	53
Bakehouses	...	7
Butchers Shops	...	30
Fishmongers Shops	...	12
Grocers & General Shops	...	187
Greengrocers	...	27
Licensed Premises	...	121

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The position with regard to slaughterhouses and slaughtering was considerably altered with the implementation of "the appointed day", for the District on 1st July. Only 2 of the 4 slaughterhouses previously licensed complied with the new standards, and, as a result the slaughterhouses at Snodland and Larkfield were closed. As the slaughterhouse at Plaxtol had not been used by the year's end, the amount of slaughtering carried on in the second half of the year was greatly reduced. Towards the end of the year planning permission and Ministerial approval was given to the construction of a new private slaughterhouse at Snodland. The expected output of this slaughterhouse is of the order of 100 Cattle and 800 smalls per week. It is anticipated that work on the building will commence in 1964.

With the implementation of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 on 1st October, 100% inspection of all animals killed is now a legal requirement and such inspection must be in accord with the method laid down in the regulations. These regulations follow closely but in more detail on the previously recommended methods of inspection which have been practised in your district since the reopening of the Slaughterhouses in 1954 and meat inspection has always been maintained at 100% inspection of all animals killed. As the majority of the slaughtering up to the appointed day took place at week-ends and evenings $64\frac{1}{2}$ hours overtime including work on 6 Saturdays and 12 Sundays had to be worked by the two Inspectors carrying out this duty.

For the first time, Local Authorities were authorised to make a charge for Meat Inspection. This is to offset to some extent the additional cost to Local Authorities. The charges which it was decided to apply in this District are:- Each Bovine 2/6d; Each Calf or Pig 9d; Each Sheep 6d; During the 2 months that these charges were in operation the income was £2. 13s. 3d.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned during 1963.

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number killed Number inspected)	165	77	20	35	579	876
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	6	2	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	10	2	3	18	50
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	% 10.30	% 12.99	% 15.0	% 25.71	% 3.45	% 6.73
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

Approximate weight condemned 9 cwts. 0 qtr. 2 lbs.

MILK SUPPLIES

Although the County Council as Food and Drugs authority are responsible for the issuing of Special Designation licences and sampling, the Rural District Council are responsible for the registration of distributors of milk. The liaison between this Authority and the County Council has continued and premises from which milk is sold have received routine inspection.

There are 74 distributors and 10 registered dairies in the district.

Voluntary Surrender of Food Stuffs

The following quantity of foods was surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Weight</u>				
	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Ozs.</u>
Tinned & Dried Fruit	3	14	2	10	1
Tinned Vegetables	2	13	-	25	-
Tinned Meat	-	16	1	21	10
Fresh Meat	-	9	3	27	- *
Bacon	-	10	-	12	3
Tinned Milk	-	-	4	13	8
Tinned Soup	-	-	3	16	3
Tinned Fish	-	-	3	22	-
Fats	-	-	1	12	8
Cereals	-	-	3	8	4
Poultry	-	-	-	25	-
Baby Foods	-	-	-	15	10
Coffee Beans	-	-	-	12	-
Frozen Foods	-	-	-	9	1
Preserves	-	-	-	4	-
TOTAL	8	10	-	10	-

* Including meat surrendered at private Slaughterhouses during meat inspection and immediately after slaughter.

In addition 78 ice creams and ice lollies and 20 dozen eggs were condemned.

The staining of unfit and fresh meat at the Slaughterhouses prior to collection by a glue and fertiliser company for processing was continued during the year. As in previous years, all other unfit foods were disposed of at the Council's controlled tip under strict supervision.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The following details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within this Rural District during 1963 have been furnished by Mr. S. Strugnell the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, who are the responsible authority for this purpose in the district.

<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>
Alton Bitter	1	B/fd.	38
Antiseptic Lozenges	1	Instant Coffee	1
Asprin	1	Jelly	1
Bacon	1	Lard	1
Beef Liver Scup	1	Laws' Chutnee	1
Beef Steak & Kidney Pie	1	Lemon Flavoured Linctus	1
Beetroot (White)	1	Marmalade	1
Brandy Sweets	1	Marzipan	1
Bronchial & Catarrah Syrup	1	Milk	40
Butter	2	Minced Beef with Onion & Gravy ..	1
Cake Mix	1	Neuralgia Mixture	1
Cheese	1	Orange	2
Cheese Spread	1	Orange & Passion Fruit Drink	1
Chocolate Top Cream Sweets	1	Orange Squash	1
Chop Sauce	1	Pork Sausages	4
Coffee Aero	1	Potted Salmon with Butter	1
Cough Lozenges	1	Puff Pastry	1
Cough Pastilles	1	Raspberries	1
Cream	3	Sausage Rolls	2
Custard Powder	1	Soothe	1
Cyder	1	Self-Raising Flour	1
Evaporated Milk	1	Sultanas	1
Famel Syrup	1	Sunny Spread	1
Fruit & Nut Assortment	1	Syrup of White Pine with Tar	1
Gin	4	Tea	1
Glinteel Pastilles	1	Teething Jelly	1
Glycerine & Thymol Pastilles	1	Trimmetts	1
Gravy Powder	1	Wheat Flakes	1
Ground Almonds	1	Whisky	4
Home Bread Mix	1	Zinc & Castor Oil Cream	1
Ice Cream	2		
	C/fd.	38	TOTAL 114

SUMMARY:-

Milks	...	40
Drugs	...	14
Spirit	...	8
Other Samples	...	52
		114

The undermentioned samples were unsatisfactory :-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Brandy Sweets for adults only	Alcohol 0.71% - 2.2% Brandy A small amount to justify the label.	Makers notified and requested to amend label
T.T. Farm Bottled Milk	Not less than 18% added water.	Proceedings against Dairyman. Fine £10. Costs £2. 2. Od.
Fruit & Nut Assortment	Ingredients not quoted in correct order of proportion.	Makers notified. Label to be amended

ICE CREAM

During 1963 there was a total of 196 premises in the district registered for the Storage and Sale of Ice Cream, but there are no Ice Cream manufacturers. In each case supplies are received prepacked from well known manufacturers, and during the year, three of the largest Companies amalgamated. In many cases, the shopkeeper no longer knows which brand of ice cream he will receive in his next delivery. Consequently there was a loss of choice in sampling, but because samples are taken from the same sources all over the country, only a few samples were taken. Details of these samples together with similar results for the previous four years are as follows :-

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Premises registered for storage and sale.	128	139	151	170	196
Grade 1.	11	14	13	12	4
2.	1	3	3	-	1
3.	-	1	5	-	1
4.	-	-	-	-	-
	12	18	21	12	6

With the smallness of the figures, percentages have little or no significance and have been omitted.

Frequent routine inspections are made to all ice cream dealers, a total of 324 being made in 1963, the standard of hygiene and handling is generally good and well maintained.

PEST CONTROL

It will be noticed that the sections of the report dealing with Rodent Control and Pest Control are this year recorded under one heading. This has been done primarily because of the changed financial situation. At one time it was necessary for Rodent Control costs to be kept separate owing to very precise requirements of the Ministry. This is no longer so and the services are now organised as one unit.

Rodent Control methods remained very much the same during 1963 as in recent years. Regular bulletins are received from the Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food giving results of experiments and the benefit of up-to-date techniques.

The public are now well aware of the services provided and infestations are continuing to be notified in their early stages. This is a very good thing as treatment can be undertaken before large infestations have been built up. A total of 382 rodent control treatments were carried out by your Rodent Operator during the year, a very similar number to 1962. Routine survey work of all types of premises in the area takes quite a lot of time and this work is undertaken after the requests for assistance by members of the public have been attended to.

The system of annual contracts is still proving highly satisfactory and at the 31st December there were 23 in force, bringing in approximately £350 per annum towards the cost of running the service. All sorts of commercial premises are covered by these contracts including farms, factories, hospitals, agricultural research establishments, laboratories, warehouses, etc. Regular visits are made to contract premises at least once per month, but in practice this is an absolute minimum, as it is the Department's aim to carry out sufficient treatment to maintain the premises free from pests. Some of the contracts are for rats and mice only and others cover certain insect pests as well. At the end of the year negotiations were in progress in connection with a number of additional contracts.

Regular inspections and treatments are carried out at all premises owned by the Council, including sewage works, pumping stations, refuse tip, etc., and by virtue of this I can say with every confidence that very little trouble is experienced. I am particularly pleased with the refuse tip. Due to the use of mechanical equipment which effects considerable consolidation and the vigilance of the Rodent Operator and the Tractor Driver on the tip, it is seldom necessary to do more than token test baiting.

The sewers throughout the rural district are test baited regularly. Particular attention was again paid to West Malling and Snodland but the infestations in these parishes have greatly diminished. Where there is any indication that a surface infestation may be affected by rats in a nearby sewer, block treatment of all the properties alongside such sewer is carried out and in many instances quite large areas are surveyed and tested to ensure that the infestation has been completely embraced by the treatment.

The following table gives numerical details of the rodent control work carried out on all types of premises during 1963 :-

	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. Business premises)	Total
Total number of properties in Local Authority's area	22	13,830	447	1,365	15,664
Number of Properties inspected as result of notification	-	173	5	25	203
Number of Properties inspected as a result of survey or otherwise *	22	36	23	1	82
Number of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by	Hats 8 Mice --	190 19	9 1	17 9	224 29
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority (Completed treatments only)	8	209	10	26	253
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	16	286	19	61	382
Number of "Block Control" treatments carried out	86 involving 255 properties				

* Specific rodent control visits. Not including those visits where the primary reason was other than rodent control.

I mentioned in my opening remarks that insect and other pest eradication was now carried out as a integral part of the pest control service. The Rodent Operator, Mr. H. Jenner, is provided with the necessary spraying equipment, insect powders and the like and I feel that considerable assistance is given to householders by this type of work and on the whole I think it is greatly appreciated by the general public. The following figures show the pests treated during 1963 :-

Cockroaches	29:	Ants	40:	Beetles	7:	Bees	1:
Fleas	4:	Bats	3:	Wasps	119:	Bed Bugs	7:
Flies	6:	Mosquitos	1:				

The summer of 1963 was quite an average one so far as wasps nests were concerned and in all 119 were dealt with. There is a tendency for great fluctuation in the number of wasps nests from year to year. A charge is made for the destruction of nests on business premises but the service is provided free of charge to domestic premises.

Once again I am pleased to be able to report that it has not been necessary to undertake any pest control work at the public open spaces within the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The following is the report on the operation and working of the Public Cleansing Services during the year 1963.

Manpower

The total establishment in connection with the Public Cleansing Services comprised 55 men and 2 women, employed as follows :..

- 1 General Foreman
- 1 Foreman Fitter
- 2 Assistant Fitters
- 2 Refuse Disposal and Tractor Drivers engaged on the refuse tip.
- 16 men on cesspool emptying
- 33 men on Refuse Collection
- 2 women employed on salvage sorting and baling

A great deal of time was lost throughout the year by reason of sickness and absence without leave, in addition to the normal holiday entitlement of the staff. A total of $1,219\frac{1}{2}$ days work were lost during 1963 and this represents 4.7 men per week throughout the year. This lost time was comprised of 993 days (3.8 men) through sickness and 226 days (.9 men) for other reasons. Of these latter days 33 were taken with permission, for such things as Territorial Army Camps, funerals and other personal reasons. The remaining $193\frac{1}{2}$ days were taken without permission. The question of absenteeism is becoming a very serious problem and loss of pay is no deterrent. It is extremely difficult for suitable arrangements to be made each morning for crewing the vehicles and unfortunately it is very often necessary to run a vehicle with one or even two men short. This delays refuse collection and throws an undue burden on the remainder of the crew. The normal holiday entitlement must be added to the above figures. Holidays commence in the spring and the majority are taken during the summer months but it is now quite impossible to fit them all in during this period, and it is true to say that personnel are away on holiday almost every week of the year. During 1963 holidays amounted to 466 days and this will be considerably increased in the future by additional holiday awards.

There is a constant turnover of manpower. During 1963 18 men were engaged and 18 left. It is evident that the period between a man leaving and a suitable replacement being found is increasing, as there appears to be plenty of work in the area and men will only make application to the Council as a last resort. With regard to the refuse collection staff, it is very difficult to get them to work even a minimum of overtime, as many have other jobs to which they go after normal hours and for which they receive regular pay.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The weekly collection of refuse was continued through the rural district and service was given to an additional 526 houses during 1963.

The nature of the refuse collected is still tending to become more bulky in relation to its weight but the overall quantity is increasing. This is brought about by the rapid increase in the number of premises in the district and also by an increase in the amount of refuse from each house. You will see from the figures in the table given below that the tonnage appears to have dropped. This position has been brought about by an adjustment of the detail tonnage figures following periodical test weighs. As members will be aware, a weigh bridge is not available and only token check weighs are carried out from time to time and the records adjusted accordingly.

All refuse continued to be tipped at Birling Common under controlled conditions. The area of land available for tipping is rapidly diminishing and at the year's end negotiations were taking place for new tipping sites. During the year the Fordson Tractor at last became unserviceable and was sold as scrap. The Bristol Duplex machine alone was used for the remainder of the year, but one vehicle of this size is just not adequate to deal with the quantity of work involved in a really efficient manner.

Year	Refuse Tons	Hardcore & Covering Tons	C.E. Tip Rd. Maintenance Tons	Salvage Tons	Mics. Tons	Total Tons
1958	10997	1548	246	468	186	13445
1959	12066	1571	245	179	155	14216
1960	13211	2333	209	250	76	16079
1961	16778	2431	233	283	54	19779
1962	17384	1512	211	249	52	19408
1963	15423	1416	33	285	9	17166

Additional litter bins were provided throughout the district and these are emptied regularly by the refuse crews. There was a considerable increase in the collection of bulk rubbish from domestic premises. Very many requests are received for such things as bedsteads and general household rubbish of a bulky nature, to be removed, especially after change of occupation. I think this is a service which is well justified but it is continuing to increase and it may not always be possible to absorb the work with the present vehicles and men. When normal weekly refuse collection has been completed there is now very little time left for covering the refuse tip and other essential routine work. At the year's end the disposal of abandoned vehicles was beginning to make itself felt.

Salvage

The following table shows the position with regard to salvage sales and income over the past 5 years :-

Year	Wastepaper, etc.				Metal, Tins, Rags etc.				Miscellaneous				Total						
	T.	C.	Weight	Value	T.	C.	Weight	Value	T.	C.	Weight	Value	T.	C.	Value				
		£.	Q.	£.	Q.	£.	Q.	£.	Q.	£.	Q.	£.	Q.	£.	s.	d.			
1959	214.	10.	2.	1,681.	1.	0.	17.	12.	1.	154.	3.	6.	Tyres	4.	11.	0.			
1960	320.	8.	1.	2,598.	6.	1.	18.	16.	1.	234.	3.	3.	"	—	—	232.	2.		
1961	414.	1.	0.	3,515.	5.	1.	23.	8.	1.	220.	12.	11.	1 Ton	4.	0.	0.	339.	4.	
1962	393.	9.	1.	3,244.	1.	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	25.	3.	0.	185.	0.	2.	"	—	—	418.	12.	1.	
1963	339.	5.	3.	2,785.	10.	2.	16.	2.	3.	181.	15.	0.	"	—	—	355.	8.	2.	
																	2,968.	5.	2.

It will be seen that there was a slight fall in tonnage collected and in the total amount realised for salvage during 1963. This position was largely brought about by the restrictions placed on deliveries by the Board Mills, but at the year's end these restrictions were being eased and with some slight publicity to the refuse collectors the quantity of paper salvage collected was increasing and I have reason to believe that the increased tonnage will be maintained. Salvageable materials continued to consist mainly of waste paper, including newsprint and fibre board, metal, both ferrous and non-ferrous and rags.

The total expenditure on salvage amounted to £2,389. 19s. 10d. and the receipts from the sale thereof amounted to £2,968. 5s. 2d., giving an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £578. 5s. 4d. Two power bailers were in use throughout the year and this enabled the paper to be dealt with much more speedily than when one bailer was used.

The 50% salvage bonus paid to those men employed in the collection of the salvage has proved invaluable in maintaining sufficient staff to keep the Public Cleansing services running. Without this bonus I feel that labour difficulties would have been even more acute than those experienced during the year.

Cesspool Emptying

A total of 2,750 cesspools are regularly emptied and this total is continually rising. Not only are new premises being constructed with cesspool drainage but also a great many cesspools which were built some years ago have reached the stage where emptying for the first time is required and once they have been so emptied they thereafter continue to need attention. A total of 18,543 800-gallon loads were dealt with during 1963 and this figure includes 63 loads from pail closets. This work was accomplished by the use of 8 vehicles plus one spare machine making 9 in all. Once again it was frequently necessary to keep cesspool emptiers in the garage because their drivers and mates have had to be taken away in order to deal with the kerb-side collection of refuse because of absenteeism and staff shortage on the refuse side. Taking the year as a whole an average of 7.7 machines were in use per week, but, taking overtime into account, the equivalent machine time, based on a 42 hour week, would have given 9.4 vehicles full time throughout the year. The disposal of the immense quantity of liquid sewage from cesspools presents an enormous problem and from time to time difficulty is experienced in disposing of same without nuisance.

The following table sets out details of the cesspool emptying position over the past 4 years and from this it may be seen that there has been a steady increase in the work of this particular service.

LOADS REMOVED			
Year	Cesspools	Pails	Total
1960	14,796	117 (17,533 pails)	14,913
1961	16,595	100 (16,965 ")	16,695
1962	17,812	85 (16,971 ")	17,897
1963	18,480	63 (12,518 ")	18,543

Garages, Vehicles and Maintenance

All the vehicles of the department are garaged at the East Malling Depot except the tractors at the refuse tip. These vehicles are as follows:-

10 refuse collection vehicles including one spare
9 cesspool emptiers including one spare
1 - 2 ton truck
2 vans - one General Foreman, one Rodent Operator
2 tractors (one scrapped during the year)

During the year one of the older refuse vehicles was replaced by a new Pakamatic 35 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle and one 800 gallon cesspool emptier was replaced by a new vehicle of a 1,000 gallon capacity. Both of these vehicles proved to be extremely useful in helping to deal with the increased work in connection with both refuse collection and cesspool emptying. At the year's end arrangements were being made for the replacement of 2 further vehicles during the financial year commencing 1st April, 1964.

Maintenance of all the Council's vehicles, including the 3 under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor's department, is carried out at East Malling and great credit is due to the fitters, as the time lost through mechanical breakdown is comparatively small. With a fleet of this size three fitters are kept very busy as they not only deal with vehicle repairs but also fitting work at sewage works, pumping stations etc., the painting and erection of litter bins, small building repairs at the Depot and many other routine matters. Permission was given for the employment of a 3rd fitter during the year but it proved to be very difficult to find a suitable person and two changes took place before the end of the year. In addition to this the foreman fitter was absent for a considerable period through sickness and we were once again reduced to two fitters.

As usual a major part of the expenditure on vehicle maintenance was accounted for by the cost of tyres, but I am pleased to be able to report that the system of remoulding has again proved well worth while. Considerable reduction in the cost of tyres is obtained now that they are purchased through the County Supplies Department. This saving also applies to many other vehicle spares.

FACTORIES

The following tables show the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found :-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Owners Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	163	151	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	6	5	-	-
TOTAL	171	155	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)	-	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)	-	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary conveniences (s.7)	-	-	-	-	-	
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-	
(c) not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-	
Other offences not including offences relating to Home Work	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	2	-	-	-	-	

OUTWORK
(SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel etc. and washing	2	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	3	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	-	-	-	-	-

CLEAN AIR

92 visits were made in connection with the implementation of the Clean Air Act and 12 recorded observations of chimney stacks were taken in addition to unrecorded observations during the year under review.

All furnace owners were reminded that after 5th July, 1963, that it would no longer be possible to plead as a defence in any proceedings for an offence of emitting dark smoke in excess of the permitted periods, that the contravention was due to faulty buildings or equipment and to inability to remedy this.

During the year a large new furnace was put into commission at Aylesford Paper Mills. Although some difficulties were experienced in the early stages, matters were corrected and the plant operated in accordance with the Act.

Complaints were received of a dust nuisance from a quarry at Aylesford. The matter was taken up with the management concerned; grit arresters were fitted with the result that the nuisance was mitigated.

Another source of complaint was a quarry at Borough Green, temporary works were carried out and later new plant incorporating dust arresting equipment installed resulting in a reduction of the nuisance.

SHOPS ADMINISTRATION

As in previous years, the administration of the Shops Act continued to be dealt with whilst visiting shops for other duties. A total of 409 visits was made in this connection. Upon a change of occupancy visits are made to explain the terms of the legislation and brochures are left setting out the principal provisions of the Act. As in previous years, from time to time it was found necessary to issue warnings with regard to the sale of goods on the half day and on Sundays, but it was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

SWIMMING POOLS

Close attention was paid to the two privately owned swimming pools in the district which are open to the public. The pool in the Blue Bell Hill area which is owned and operated by the Boy Scouts Association continued to operate all the year round. It is provided with continuous chlorination and filtration plant and is heated. It is used by schools, swimming clubs and the general public in addition to the Boy Scouts. The open air pool in Addington parish is provided with continuous filtration and aeration equipment and is only open during the summer months, hand chlorination is carried out to the main pool, the childrens paddling pool being dealt with on the empty and fill principle.

Both pools are closely supervised and regular samples of the water are taken. During 1963, 109 samples were taken, 108 proving satisfactory, the unsatisfactory sample being taken from the Blue Bell Hill pool and was due to a breakdown of the chlorinating plant. Repairs were carried out and further samples proved satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered common Lodging Houses in the district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

4 applications for site licences under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 were received and approved during the year and in each case the application was for 1 caravan only. The Model Standards were closely followed, but each site was judged on its merits and after discussion with the site operator. A total of 269 visits were made during 1963 under this heading.

Although it can be said that at the moment there is no particular problem in the district from unauthorised Caravans, close watch has to be maintained. From time to time roadside verges and some other sites are frequented by gypsies and other travellers and if prompt action is not taken a problem would soon be created.

During the year a Local Inquiry was held into the Council's scheme to provide a caravan site at Wateringbury for gypsies and other intinerant caravan dwellers. As was expected, strong objections were registered against the proposal and planning approval was refused by the Minister.

NOISE

The only complaints under this heading related to mobile food shops operating their musical chimes outside the permitted hours of noon to 7.0 p.m. The assistance of the Police Authority was enlisted and the annoyance abated. General observations were made throughout the District to ensure that excessive noises were not being created.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

All premises in which Cinematograph or Stage Shows are given and to which the public are admitted, are licensed annually and the relevant legal requirements are strictly enforced. During the year under review, 4 licences for Cinema Shows and 8 for Stage Shows were issued.

PETROLEUM

All premises at which petroleum spirit, or inflammable petrol-based mixtures are stored are licensed under the Petroleum Act. The recommendations issued by the Home Office are incorporated in the conditions of licence and have been strictly enforced.

A total of 153 licences were issued in respect of 5 large depots 34 service stations and 114 other premises. 128 visits were made under this heading in addition to the inspections carried out by the Fire Prevention Officer of the Kent County Fire Brigade on behalf of the Council.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

During the year 10,589 inspections were carried out in connection with work of the department, comprised as follows:-

Food Premises

Number of visits to	Sweets & Tobacco	35
" " "	Bakehouses	21
" " "	Butchers shops	93
" " "	Grocers shops	227
" " "	Greengrocers	74
" " "	General	105
" " "	Confectioners	32
" " "	Fishmongers shops	35
" " "	Cafes	106
" " "	Works Canteens	44
" " "	Public Houses	66
" " "	Slaughterhouses	62
" " "	Meat Inspection	181
" " "	Piggeries	17
" " "	Milk Supplies	28
" " "	Ice Cream and Ham (Sec. 16)	324
" " "	Food Condemnation	129
" " "	Food Factories	56
" " "	Slaughtermen's Licences	10
" " "	Dairies	14
" " "	Mobile Food Shops	3

Environmental Hygiene and Miscellaneous

Number of visits to	Factories	155
" " "	Outworkers	8
" " "	Aged Persons	18
" " "	Dirty Premises	3
" " "	Premises re rat and/or mice infestation (inc. 2649 by Rodent Operator)	2,766
" " "	Premises re pest and/or vermin (other than rats or mice)	275
" " "	Premises re notifiable and infectious diseases	841
" " "	Inspection re refuse accumulation and/or manure heaps	33
" " "	Visits carried out under Housing and/or Public Health Acts	1,200
" " "	Housing Inspection in connection with rehousing	41
" " "	Visits re sewerage and sewage disposal	26
" " "	" cesspools, septic tanks, drains	393
" " "	" rivers, streams, ditches, etc.,	39
" " visits to	Swimming Pools	50
" " "	re Drinking Water	112
" " "	Public Assembly	14
" " "	Hop Pickers Camps	50
" " "	Moveable Dwellings	269
" " "	re Petroleum	128
" " "	Land Charges	30
" " "	Domestic Animals (Nuisance)	2
" " "	Rent Acts	16
" " "	Refuse Disposal	20
" " "	Miscellaneous	239
" " "	Smoke	92
" " "	Shops Acts	409
" " "	Waste Food Boiling Plants	13

Number of visits to Agricultural (S.H. & W.P.)Act, 1956	...	4
" " " " Refuse Collection	...	944
" " " " Public Conveniences	...	64
" " " " Noise nuisances	...	11
" " " " Cesspool emptying	...	481
" " " " Holly Hill	...	1
" " " " Riding Establishments	...	1
" " " " Hairdressers	...	3
" " " " Pet Animals Act	...	8
" " " " Mortuaries	...	8
" " " " Abandoned Vehicles	...	23
" " " " Quarries	...	12
" " " " Animal Boarding Establishments	...	4

In conclusion, I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Council for their continuous support and interest during the year, and to the staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. COLDRICK

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Parish	Number of houses according to Valuation List as at 31.12.63.	Area (Acres)	Population (estimated)
Addington	219	1,119	654
Aylesford	1,948	4,013	6,078
Birling	451	1,801	1,332
Borough Green	1,095	480	3,276
Burham	584	1,632	1,708
Ditton	867	1,066	2,759
Ightham	601	2,278	1,837
Leybourne	188	755	2,108
East Malling & Larkfield	1,590	2,787	4,901
West Malling	880	1,379	2,436
Mereworth	224	2,556	830
Offham	230	1,479	738
East Peckham	756	3,337	2,223
West Peckham	105	1,582	338
Platt	445	1,827	1,321
Plaxtol	344	2,406	1,008
Ryarsh	251	1,375	776
Shipbourne	158	2,007	504
Snodland	1,453	1,958	4,345
Stansted	168	1,974	539
Trottiscliffe	164	1,155	467
Wateringbury	365	1,377	1,123
Wouldham	264	1,855	848
Wrotham	480	3,457	1,471
TOTALS	13,830	45,655	43,620

Summary

Area of district (in acres)	...	45,655
Registrar General's estimate of Mid Year Home Population	...	43,620
Average density of persons per area	...	•955
No. of inhabited dwellings (31.12.63) according to Valuation List	...	13,830
Average density of dwellings	1 per	3.301 acre
Average number of persons per dwelling inhabited	...	3.15
Rateable Value (as at 31.12.63)	£1,997,819	
Sum represented by a penny rate (1963-64)	£	7,521

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